Trade Fairs/Festivals held abroad

3547. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Trade Fairs/Festivals held abroad in which India participated during the last two years and so far in 1994;

(b) how many officers/staff constituted our teams for each Trade Fair/Festivals and how much expenditure was incurred on each team;

(c) what concrete benefits were derived by attending such Trade Fairs/Festivals; and

(d) how many Trade Fairs/Festivals are likely to be organised in India during the years 1994 and 1995 and what are the necessary details thereof?-

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organises participation in General Fairs, Specialised Commodity fairs and also exclusive Indian Exhibitions abroad. The details of participation in fairs/exhibitions held abroad during the last two years and so far in 1994 are as follows:—

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (till July)
General fairs	21	21	3
Specialised fairs	20	21	3
Exclusive Indian Exhibition	2	—	1
	43	42	7

Besides these the Department of Culture also organised cultural festivals *viz.* the Festival of India in Germany from Sept., 1991 to April, 1992 and the Festival of India in Beijing, China in May' 94.

(b) During 1992-93, 1993-94 and upto July, 1994 ITPO deputed 95, 103 and 13 officers respectively. The total expenditure on these deputations have been Rs. 3.05 crores. In connection with cultural festival five officers visited China during 1993-94 and estimated expenditure on these visits is Rs. 7,31,050.00

(c) As a result of ITPO's participation in trade fairs abroad in 1992-93, 1993-94 and upto July 1994, the total business generated as reported by the participants is as under:—

1992-93	1993-94	Upto July 1994
(Rupees in crores)		
1398.90	1093.27	336.83

All festivals helped to generate an appropriate climate of goodwill and understanding for mutual exchanges in different spheres including technology, commerce and tourism on a more permanent footing.

(d) India Trade Promotion Organisation, other Export Promotion Councils and various other organisers have organised as per information gathered from ITPO 29 fairs/exhibitions during 1994 and 26 fairs will be organised during 1995. These fairs cover diverse items/various commodities like garments, handicrafts, books, plastic, electronics, consumer goods, leather and leather products, health and medicare, engineering, agricultural products and gifts etc.

As regards Festivals of any country in India during 1994-95, no decision has been taken so far.

Commission to Study Social Issues in Agenda of WTO

3548. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint a commission to study the social issues proposed to be included in the agenda of the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) who will be the Chairman and

Members of the Commission and on what consideration they have been included in the Commission;

(d) what will be the terms of reference of this Commission;

(e) by when the Commission is likely to submit, its report?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Commission has been set up for the Study of Issues Concerning the Protection of Labour Rights and Related matters. The Commission would *inter-alia* study the ILO Conventions relating to exploitative labour practices, freedom of association, collective bargaining, and discrimination in employment and assess the adequacy of our laws and implementation of these laws in the context of the Conventions. The Commission would develop an action plan for overcoming the identified problems and inadequacies if any. The Chairman of the Commission is Dr. Subramanian Swamy former Cabinet Minister, and the members are Shri A.V. Ganesan, former Commerce Secretary and Shri S.L. Passey a distinguished Trade Union Leader all of whom have experience relevant to the study of this subject. The Commission will make its recommendations within one year.

Close watch on exports to Russia

3549. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a mechanism to keep a close watch on exports to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) In keeping with the common objective of ensuring transparency in Indo-Russian bilateral economic and commercial relations with strict adherence to bilateral agreements, it has been agreed by both sides to monitor carefully exports from India to Russia, particularly on the debt repayment track. Both sides have agreed to evolve systems to ensure that the commodity-wise break-up of exports of goods and services are available in a timely manner, and transactions are effected in keeping with bilateral agreements. A mechanism to monitor debt repayment exports from the Indian side, with these objectives in mind, is being evolved and will be put in place shortly for the common benefit of the Governments and trading communities of India and Russia.

Joint Venture Company between Mercedes Benz Ag. and Telco

3550. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the establishment of a Joint Venture Company between Mercedes Benz Ag. of Germany and TELCO for manufacturing Mercedes Benz passenger cars at a new plant in Pune as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 5th August, 1994; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating, (i) Mercedes Benz's investment in the total cost of project (ii) annual production capacity and target set for production and by when it is expected to start (iii) the holding company's share equity of the Joint Venture and TELCO's balance equity and (iv) likely production of engine by Pune Plant for cars etc. by 1994-95.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) M/s. Daimler Benz, the holding company of Mercedes Benz will invest about Rs. 178.5 crores. (ii) The annual capacity of the joint venture will be to